

Rhode Island State Planning Council
APPROVED Minutes of Thursday, August 14, 2014 Meeting
William E. Powers Building
Conference Room A
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

I. ATTENDANCE

1. Members Present

Mr. Kevin Flynn, Secretary	Associate Director, Division of Planning
Ms. Jeanne Boyle	President's Designee, RILOCAT
Mr. Corey Bobba	FHWA
Ms. Meredith Brady	Representing Mr. Michael Lewis, Director, RI Department of Transportation
Ms. Ana Cano-Morales	Public Member
Mr. Terry Gray	Representing Ms. Janet Coit, Director, RIDEM
Ms. Jeanne Cola	Chair, RI Housing Resources Commission
Ms. Sharon Conard-Wells	West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation
Mr. Roy Coulombe	Public Member
Mr. Thomas Mullaney	RI Department of Administration, Budget Office
Mr. L. Vincent Murray	RILOCAT, Government Official Representative
Ms. Ana Novais	Representing Dr. Michael Fine, Director RI Department of Health
Ms. Anna Prager	Public Member
Ms. Amy Rainone	Representing Mr. Richard Godfey, Executive Director Rhode Island Housing
Mr. Jan Reistma	Representing Mr. Steven Hartford, Acting Director of Administration
Mr. Samuel Shamoon	Governor's Designee
Ms. Rachel Sholly	Representing Ms. Marion Gold, Director, RI Office of Energy Resources
Mr. Mark Therrien	Representing Mr. Raymond Studley, RIPTA
Dr. Bob Vanderslice	Representing Dr. Michael Fine, Director RI Department of Health
Mr. Michael Walker	Representing Mr. Bill Parsons, RI Economic Development Corporation
Mr. Scott Wolf	Environmental Advocate

2. Members Absent

Mr. Daniel Beardsley	Executive Director, RILOCAT
Mr. Ruben Flores-Marzan	Planning Director, Providence Department of Planning and Development
Mr. Grover Fugate	Executive Director, RI Coastal Resources Management Council
Mr. John Trevor	Environmental Advocate
Ms. Janet White-Raymond	Public Member

3. Guests

Mr. Nate Kelly	Horsley Witten Group
Mr. John Preiss	RI Department of Transportation

4. Staff – Division of Planning

Ms. Melanie Jewett Army	Supervising Planner, Statewide Planning Program
Mr. Jeff Davis	Principal Planner, Statewide Planning Program
Ms. Siobhan O’Kane	Principal Planner, Statewide Planning Program

II. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Call to Order

Secretary Flynn called the meeting to order on August 14, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

2. Approval of the July 24, 2014 Meeting Minutes – *for vote*

Mr. Flynn asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of July 24, 2014. Ms. Cola moved to approve the minutes of July 24, 2014 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Novais. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

There were none.

4. Revision to Waiver Request-RI DOT Off System Bridge Funding – *for vote*

Mr. Flynn introduced Ms. Meredith Brady who presented this item as summarized in the associated agenda supplement. Ms. Brady advised the Council that the RI Department of Transportation had to amend their request for concurrence with the waiver request from the July 24, 2014 meeting due to the discovery (upon submission of the waiver request) of incorrect categorization data. This error resulted in a doubling of bridges in the off system category. The amount of waiver request will be decreased: the need

for off system bridge funding increases from \$9 million over 10 years to \$32 million over 10 years, requiring a greater set aside to be maintained for off system bridges.

Mr. Murray requested an inventory of these off-system bridges be sent to the local communities.

Ms. Cola moved to support the request to transfer the \$25 million to other Federal funding categories to support projects already included in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The motion was seconded by Ms. Novais.

Under discussion, Ms. Conard-Wells asked for an explanation of authorized funds versus allocated funds. Ms. Brady provided an explanation that the authorization of funds is the maximum amount of funds RIDOT can receive under the law and that the allocation of funds is what the department actually receives which is usually several million dollars less than the authorization.

Mr. Bobba noted that there was only a little more than a week to receive approval for the waiver before resubmission in the next Federal fiscal year would become necessary. He stated that it was a complex process and that staff could provide assistance as FHWA worked to expedite the process by providing draft minutes of the meeting no later than Monday or Tuesday (August 18th or 19th).

There was no further discussion and the motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Flynn thanked Ms. Brady for her presentation and moved to the next agenda item.

5. RhodeMap RI Draft Economic Development Plan – *for discussion*

Next, Mr. Mr. Flynn introduced Mr. Nate Kelly who delivered an informational PowerPoint presentation (attached). Upon completion of the formal presentation, discussion ensued.

Ms. Cano-Morales indicated she would like to see a deeper discussion of K-12, a more granular discussion of who is in K-12 such as English as a Second Language Students, 1st generation students, students in need of alternative learning environments.

Ms. Rainone stated that the reorganization of the draft was a positive step and that RI Housing hoped the plan would embrace a vision of growth, changing the paradigm we live in RI, a vision of a growing RI.

Mr. Bobba took a moment to mention that Federal Highway, RIDOT and URI fund workforce development programs using Civil Rights program funds to develop a diverse pipeline of candidates for positions in transportation fields starting in middle school. The report could document these programs as they have been in place for many years. These programs could serve as the foundation to start and grow additional similar efforts.

Ms. Conard-Wells perceived a gap between grassroots efforts such as those undertaken by her organization and the plan.

Mr. Reitsma pointed out that he was pleased that resiliency is incorporated into the plan and that the plan raised governance issues and also issues of who is affected. He questioned if the right people are at the table to find new ways of funding what needs to be done.

Mr. Murray stated that data shouldn't be the only measure of the success of a plan, must take qualitative aspects into account as well. Suggested a model be developed to teach the public about the regulatory process.

Mr. Walker then stated that on a state level, the RIDEM office of Technical and Customer Assistance was an excellent model.

Ms. Conard-Wells stated that this is the first plan she has seen that tries to span so many aspects of our state and economy and that that is a positive step.

Ms. Cola pointed out that the plan is about growth and opportunity and indicated a need to think about system infrastructure and changing systems that are no longer flexible and adaptable.

Dr. Vanderslice pointed out that medical costs are a drain on the economy and indicated that the Department of Health is working with staff to provide language regarding that for the plan.

Mr. Wolf questioned why Rhode Island has been unable to tap into the economic explosion in Boston in the same way that Southern New Hampshire has?

Mr. Coulombe indicated a need for stronger emphasis on registered apprenticeship programs and pointed out that apprenticeship programs lead to careers, not just jobs. Suggested that Building Futures be used as an example.

In conclusion, Mr. Flynn provided some summary comments on the next steps of the project.

6. Associate Director's Report

Mr. Flynn took a moment to mention that beyond the RhodeMap RI state guide plan elements that Statewide Planning was also working on updates to three other State guide plan elements. The update of the State Energy Plan is still being developed, with a partial draft ready for review. As soon as the full draft is prepared, it will be brought to the Council. There is a complete draft of the State Solid Waste Management Plan which will be before the Council by the end of the year. Mr. Flynn took a moment to announce the birth of children of two Statewide Planning Program employees.

7. Other Business

There was none.

8. Adjourn

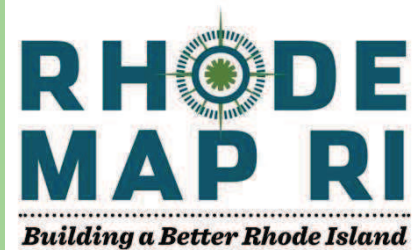
There being no further discussion Council member Coulumbe motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council member Rainone and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Flynn", written in a cursive style.

Kevin Flynn
Secretary

ATTACHMENT 1



State Planning Council Update

August 14, 2014



RhodeMap RI: Building a Better Rhode Island

Our Discussion Today

- Present highlights of feedback to date.
 - Plan Structure
 - Plan Content
- Discussion of Sections 1-3 (your draft)
 - Likes and dislikes
 - What's missing?
 - What needs to be stronger?



How to Report Back

- Today's Discussion
- E-mail

Jeff.Davis@doa.ri.gov



Plan Content

- Stronger discussion of K-12 education
- Call for strong leadership
- Property taxes
- Accountability and data-driven decisions
- Freight, passenger rail, and transit
- Food systems
- Cost of Health Care



Plan Structure

- Introduction
- Part One: A Snapshot of Our Population and Economy
- Part Two: Where do we want to be in 20 years?
- Part Three: Opportunities and Challenges
- Part Four: Goals Policies and Strategies
- Part Five: Staying On Track



The Goals:

1. Workforce and Education
2. Entrepreneurs and Innovators
3. Economic Inclusion
4. Play to Our Strengths
5. Coordinate Housing, Economy and Transportation
6. Infrastructure
7. Climate Change
8. Competitive Advantage



The Goals:

1. Workforce and Education
2. Economic Inclusion
3. Play to Our Strengths
4. Coordinate Housing, Economy and Transportation
5. Resilience (infrastructure, climate, knowledge)
6. Competitive Advantage (taxes, data, etc.)



Today's Discussion

- Introduction
- Part One: A Snapshot of Our Population and Economy
- Part Two: Where do we want to be in 20 years?
- Part Three: Opportunities and Challenges
- Part Four: Goals Policies and Strategies
- Part Five: Staying On Track



Introduction

- What is the Role of the Economic Development Plan?
 - State Guide Plan Element
 - 2013 Legislation
 - Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
- How was the Plan Developed?
- How is the Plan Organized?



Part One: The Snapshot

- Demographics
 - Overview of population
- Economy
 - Assets, Opportunities, and Challenges
- Industries
 - Industry Location; Top Industries
- Working In Rhode Island
 - Employment; Workforce Trends; Equity Issues



Part Two: The Vision

- Competitive
- Innovative
- Urban Focus
- Strong Workforce
- High Quality Jobs
- Low Unemployment
- Resilient



Part Three: Opportunities and Challenges

- Growth Centers
- Workforce Development and Education
- Entrepreneurs and Innovators
- Urban Challenges and Opportunities
- The Rural Economy
- Economic Inclusion



Part Three: Opportunities and Challenges (cont.)

- Housing and Economic Development
- Infrastructure and Climate Change
- Emerging Markets
- Regional and Global Economy
- State and Local Regulations
- Data, Information and Competitiveness



Discussion

- Likes and dislikes
- What's missing?
- What needs to be stronger?

